

FOREHOE
Rural District Council.

REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1920.

FOREHOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HINGHAM,

June, 1921.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report on the sanitary condition of the Forehoe Union for the year 1920.

There is no alteration in the natural conditions of the district.

The estimated population for the births and deaths is 11,058.

The births registered were 256—Males 143 and Females 113. This gives a birth rate of 23'1 per 1,000.

There were 14 illegitimate births.

The deaths registered were 127, the rate per 1,000, 11'4.

A considerable increase in the birth rate and diminution in the death rate.

There were 9 deaths only under one year :—

Premature birth	...	...	1 minute	}	3
" "	...	...	5 hours		
" "	...	...	10 days		
Bronchial Pneumonia	...	...	10 months	}	1
Acute Bronchitis	...	...	17 days		
" "	...	...	29 days	}	2
Congenital disease of Heart	...	...	30 minutes		
Accidentally suffocated	...	...	3 hours		1
Convulsions	...	...	11 days		1

The death rate per 1,000 is 35'1, and is the lowest infantile death rate recorded by me during my long period of Office.

WATER SUPPLY. Water supply is mainly from shallow wells, many of these are badly constructed, and very liable to contamination. The water from three newly constructed wells was examined, and in one was unsatisfactory, this was remedied. All wells now being made in the District are according to plan approved by the Council, and are so constructed that no surface water can find admission. The River Tiffey at Wymondham still remains seriously polluted with Factory effluent and sewage from the Town, and also from a Gas Plant, that discharges poisonous matter into the Stream, from the Factory—Messrs. Pages.

DRAINAGE. In both Wymondham and Hingham there has been no material alteration, and it is still far from satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Most of the privy Vaults have been abolished in the Towns, and in Wymondham the Scavenging arrangements are of an efficient character.

SANITARY INSPECTION. During the year 47 Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act 1875 were served and in all the cases the nuisance was abated. Two cases were brought before the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and the necessary order was obtained. Two Notices were served under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919, and the necessary work was carried out by Owner. 370 Preliminary Notices were served. In all cases the matters in question were attended to.

SCHOOLS. 37 visits have been paid to the various Schools. The water supply at one School was found on analysis to be polluted. The drainage was found to be unsatisfactory, this was relaid, and the water is now quite good.

MILK. Special attention is being paid to the administration of the Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shop Orders.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Measles prevailed of a mild type in the Autumn and Schools were closed for a short period by the County Medical Officer of Health. The Wicklewood School from September 28th, to October 15th, and Wymondham School from August 4th to the 12th.

DIPHTHERIA—21 cases were notified, 7 occurring in Wymondham, 12 at Hingham 1 at Runhall and 1 at Easton. Scarlet Fever—10. Wymondham 7, Colton 1, Morley St. Botolph 1, Wicklewood 1. Erysipelas 6, Wymondham 3, Carleton Forehoe 2, Costessey 1. Influenzal Pneumonia—1 at Wymondham. Puerperal Fever—1 at Costessey. Acute Polio Encephalitis—Barnham Broom. Total number of Infectious cases notified by the Medical Officers was 40. Measles, Mumps, Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox were notified by the School Officers. Diphtheritic Anti-toxin is supplied by the District Council. Swabs are also taken in all cases of Diphtheria. The majority of the children were at once sent to our Isolation Hospital. In all cases of infectious diseases isolation and disinfection is strictly enjoined and as far as possible carried out.

INFLUENZA—This disease was very prevalent in 1919 and a further outbreak was anticipated this year. Preparations were made for providing efficient help in nursing for the whole district, a large number of Volunteers kindly offering their services. Happily the disease seemed to have subsided.

TUBERCULOSIS—23 cases were notified, 11 in Wymondham, 4 in Hingham, 1 in Morley St. Botolph, 2 at Kimberley, 1 at Colton, 2 at Hackford, 1 at Barford and 1 at Barnham Broom. Of the 23 cases 16 were Pulmonary and 7 other forms of Tuberculosis. Six Patients were sent to the Kelling Hall Sanatorium, one to Ipswich Sanatorium and two to the Jenny Lind Hospital. The Shelters provided by your Council have been in great request.

The deaths during the year from all causes " civilians only " were as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES
Measles		2
Diphtheria and Croup	1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2
Tuberculosis Meningitis	1	
Other Tuberculosis diseases	1	1
Cancer	4	8
Organic Heart Disease	11	17
Bronchitis	7	15
Pneumonia, all forms	1	3
Cirrhosis of Liver		1
Puerperal Fever		1
Congenital Debility	4	2
Violence, apart from Suicide	1	2
Suicide	7	1
Influenza	1	
Other defined diseases	22	7
	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 62

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. Miss Young, the Health Visitor has sent me her report of work done from May 1920 to May 1921. This gives 1,001 visits to Mothers and Children, attending 8 confinements, and assisting me at all the Clinics where her work is most satisfactory. These are I believe much appreciated as there is a good attendance, and the Mothers carry out fairly well the advice given. All the Infants after being properly unclothed are carefully examined, and abnormal conditions noted. Questions to Mothers are put as to method of feeding, and great stress placed on natural maternal feeding. Advice is also given to the expectant and nursing Mothers.

I am glad to be able to report that after considerable difficulty provision has been made for Dental Treatment.

HOUSING. The Housing Committee are now building houses at Costessey, Deopham, Bawburgh, Hingham, Morley and Wymondham. Other action in regard to Housing is dealt with under the Ministry of Health Housing Scheme.

I congratulate your Council on the adoption and carrying out of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, and also the Housing Act. Both must be of infinite benefit to the health of the people, and the means of saving many valuable lives. You have now converted the old Isolation Cottage into an invaluable Isolation Hospital. Proper provision is also made for the efficient disinfecting of houses, bedding and wearing apparel.

In conclusion I would like to add that I owe many thanks to the County M.O. of Health, Dr. Nash; to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. Alpe, and to Miss Young the Health Visitor, also to the District Medical Officers from whom I have received courteous help.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentleman,

Yours faithfully,

T. LAMBERT LACK.

Report under the Factory Act.—T.L.L.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Factories, (including Factory Laundries) ...	Inspections, 48.	Written notices, 4.
Workshops, (including Workshop Laundries) ...	„ 20.	„ „ 5.
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Total	„ 68.	„ „ 9.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplace.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts ...	Total	Found, 1.	Remedied, 1.
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